

REMARKS

Claims 1, 5, 7-9, 35 and 36 are now pending in the application. Claims 1, 7-9, 35 and 36 have been amended herein. Claims 10-34 and 37-38 have been canceled. Favorable reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

I. CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claim 1 has been allowed, but is nevertheless amended herein to clarify further the features of the present invention.

Allowed claims 7-9 have been amended to independent form. Claim 7 includes the additional features of amended claim 1.

Claim 35 and allowable claim 36 have been amended into independent form.

II. ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the allowance of claims 1, 5 and 7-9. Moreover, applicants acknowledge indicated allowability of claim 36 subject to being amended to independent form. Claim 36 has been amended so as to incorporate all limitations of the base claim, and accordingly it is submitted that this claim is now also allowable.

III. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 28 AND 31-38 UNDER 35 USC §112, 1st AND 2nd ¶

Claims 28 and 31-38 stand rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested for the following reasons.

Regarding claim 28, the Examiner notes that the term "induced current flow bond" is indefinite as to its meaning and unsupported by the specification. To the extent the rejection may apply to remaining claims 35 and 36, this term has been canceled so as to render the rejection moot.

IV. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 28, 31, 32 AND 37-38 UNDER 35 USC 102(b)

Claims 28, 31, 32 and 37-38 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) based on Kramer. These claims have been canceled without prejudice, thus rendering the rejection moot. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

V. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 28 AND 33-35 UNDER 35 USC §102(b)

Claims 28 and 33-35 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) based on Letter. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested for at least the following reasons.

Regarding remaining claim 35, the claim wording has been amended so as to direct the claim to a structure comprising a bond formed between an optical fibre and a metallic element using a glass fixative, and additionally so as to make it clear that the glass fixative composition includes all of the substances listed. Letter does not teach or suggest a glass fixative composition including all of these substances and accordingly withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

VI. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 33-35 UNDER 35 USC §103(a)

Claims 33-35 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) based on Kramer in view of Letter. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested for at least the following reasons.

Regarding remaining claim 35, there is nothing in Kramer or Letter to teach or suggest a glass fixative composition including all of the substances listed. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

VII. INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Submitted herewith is an Information Disclosure Statement citing a reference not known to any individual designated under §1.56(c) more than months weeks ago. Such reference does not adversely affect the allowability of the claims, and is submitted in order to make the reference of record.

For example, the reference uses a glass preform having a softening temperature of 850°C, and accordingly requires a layer of insulation to shield the ceramic feeder tube and buffer the fiber from the heat. (See, e.g., Fig. 2, and Col. 3, Ins. 20 and 50). No such thermal insulation is required in the formation of a bond in accordance with the invention. The method of the invention is therefore capable of being carried out in a simpler and more reliable manner.

VIII. CONCLUSION

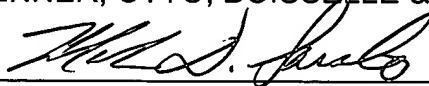
Accordingly, all claims are believed to be allowable and the application is believed to be in condition for allowance. A prompt action to such end is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner feel that a telephone interview would be helpful to facilitate favorable prosecution of the above-identified application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Should a petition for an extension of time be necessary for the timely reply to the outstanding Office Action (or if such a petition has been made and an additional extension is necessary), petition is hereby made and the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees (including additional claim fees) to Deposit Account No. 18-0988.

Respectfully submitted,

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